

(150) each). Also included are spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$55.5 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a partner country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will provide sufficient modern transport vehicles to improve Lebanon's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to move troops and supplies around the country to counter violent extremist organizations and to secure its border. Lebanon will have no difficulty absorbing this additional equipment and services into its armed forces as they currently operate over one thousand (1,000) HMMWVs of various variants.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be American General, South Bend, Indiana. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two (2) U.S. contractor representatives to Lebanon for a duration of up to thirteen (13) weeks to conduct HMMWV operator and maintenance training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on roll-call vote No. 240, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Taylor B. McNeel, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MARK BEDRIN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to take a few minutes to recognize MAJ Mark Bedrin for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army congressional fellow and congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. Major Bedrin is transitioning from his present assignment to continue his service to our country as an Army officer.

The cornerstone of Mark's success as an officer is his family. He is a dedicated husband to his wife Katie and a devoted father to his children: daughter Elizabeth and son Patrick. They provide the foundation for Mark's service, and they are his off-time partners in travel, canoeing, fishing, and exploring the great outdoors.

A native of Kirkwood, NY, Major Bedrin graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2009, with a bachelor of arts in history, and commissioned into the Infantry branch, where he served as a platoon leader and company commander. Other notable previous assignments include platoon

leader, Attack Company, 1-32 IN, 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY, and Afghanistan; assistant operations officer, rifle troop commander, and headquarters and headquarters troop commander, 1st Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, U.S. Army Europe, in Germany, Afghanistan, and Egypt. His operational deployments include two combat tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and one peacekeeping tour supporting the Multinational Force and Observers, MFO, in Egypt.

Following a successful command tour, Mark applied to and was selected for the highly competitive U.S. Army Congressional Fellowship Program. This program enables outstanding military officers and DOD civilians to bring their talents to the hill and to work in a Member's office as a congressional defense fellow to learn firsthand how Congress operates. It also provides an opportunity for the fellow to earn a master's degree in legislative affairs at George Washington University, GWU.

Mark joined my office as an Army congressional fellow in January 2017, and we had the great benefit of his service on Team Moran for a year before he departed for the Pentagon in January 2018 for a utilization tour as a congressional budget liaison with the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller.

Mark has worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and congressional staff to accurately articulate and to timely provide the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees and to answer questions related to Army programs and priorities for Members of Congress and congressional staff. His dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the Army are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow and as a liaison successfully represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the U.S. Congress.

Throughout his career, Major Bedrin has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our nation and invaluable service to the U.S. Congress.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Mark Bedrin over the last 3 years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Mark for his service to our country, and we wish Mark and his family all the very best in their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE HELDSTAB

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Mike Heldstab joined my staff in June of 2014. Serving as my State military liaison, he assisted well over a thousand Kansas veterans and Active servicemembers during his 6½ years on my staff. Mike would often travel the State in my stead, between commu-

nities in south central Kansas and our military installations—namely, Fort Riley and his hometown of Junction City.

Mike is a tireless advocate for servicemembers and veterans. He is well known in the Kansas military and veterans communities as a trusted resource who produces results. Most notably, Mike advocated for a policy change in the VA's Specially Adapted Housing Program after working with the family of a disabled Army veteran to adapt their home. His efforts resulted in new legislation that was signed into law on August 8, 2020, that expanded this critical grant program so disabled veterans can adapt their homes to fit their disability. I am confident that Mike's selfless approach to service will continue in every aspect of his life.

In addition to his work assisting veterans and military servicemembers, Mike was involved in Wichita-area volunteer organizations and strived to be a community leader. Mike has a passion for economic development that I am certain will serve him well in his next chapters in life. I commend his efforts to make Kansas and Wichita a better place.

Mike's highlights from his years on staff include being able to travel and meet with Senator Bob Dole between 2014 and 2015 when Kansas's Favorite Son was touring all 105 counties. He also cherished his opportunities to interact with our military, which provided him the chance to fly in Air Force tankers out of McConnell Air Force Base and playing wheelchair basketball with wounded warriors.

While Mike is leaving our staff, I know I will see him many more times in the years ahead as a friend and trusted adviser. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of service to the citizens of Kansas, and I wish you all the best as you start this new chapter of your career.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN LEITZKE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor MAJ Brian Leitzke for his dedicated service in the U.S. Air Force and his completion of the Air Force Legislative Defense Fellowship with my office. Major Leitzke joined my office in January of this year, where he served as my Defense Fellow. Previously, he served as an Air Force Fellow in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. As a Defense Fellow, Major Leitzke demonstrated a superior work ethic and tireless dedication to his legislative duties, making him a trusted voice and integral member of my defense team. Major Leitzke drafted or coauthored almost 40 pieces of legislation, including \$45.2 billion in authorizations for the National Defense Authorization Act and the CARES Act. Additionally, he prepared for 28 hearings of the Senate Armed Services Committee and orchestrated